

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE KING AND QUEEN have been paying a short visit to Wales this week. It was a happy thought to follow up as soon as possible King Edward's visit and to show that their present Majesties are equally interested in Welsh difficulties and prospects. The difficulties remain, but the prospects are far brighter than they were a year or two ago; and there can be little doubt that the short tour, welcome and even enthusiastic as its reception has been, will have a permanent effect. The importance of the Crown as the principal link of Empire depends largely on these personal contacts. The visit to Holyroodhouse was a great success, and that to Wales hardly less. Next month's visit to Northern Ireland is also an admirable and gallant gesture. May it play its part towards smoothing

"... that fatal wave, that from our side
Sunders the lovely and the lonely Bride
Whom we have wedded but have never won."

LORD LINLITHGOW is to be warmly congratulated on the manner in which he has handled the extremely difficult Indian political situation. "*Fortiter in re, suaviter in modo*" might well be his motto. He has been very conciliatory in his attitude and language, without at the same time making any concessions that would have struck at the roots of the Government of India Act. Such yielding as has been done has been on the part of Congress and its real leader, Mr. Gandhi. Congress Ministries are now being formed in all the six provinces, where the Congress Party possess majorities, and before long we shall have evidence as to how these Ministries are comporting themselves. That the future in Indian politics will be free from disquieting symptoms, one can hardly perhaps hope. But at least in the present Viceroy we have an administrator who has already proved himself capable of guiding the country safely through one political storm and who can be trusted to deal, in calm and statesmanlike fashion, with any further difficulties that may arise in the carrying out of Parliament's complex and somewhat idealistic constitutional plan for India.

GENERAL HERTZOG'S BOMBSHELL in the matter of the South African Protectorates has naturally produced its repercussions in Parliament during the past week and one of the results has been to draw from Mr. Malcolm MacDonald the assurance that his Department has been busy drafting a communication from Whitehall to the Union Government on the subject of future policy. It is to be hoped that before this communication is despatched the Cabinet will carefully consider its wording in the light of the *aide memoire* of 1935 and the obligations therein imposed on Whitehall to co-operate with the Union Government in bringing about "the full

acquiescence of the populations concerned" in the transfer of these Protectorates to South Africa. The Union Government, for their part, might in the meantime also consider what special inducements they can offer speedily to win over the Protectorates' populations to the idea of incorporation in Union territory. The transfer of the Protectorates was contemplated and provided for in one of the schedules of the South Africa Act of 1909, and in view of the long delay that has ensued in giving effect to that schedule it is natural that there should be a certain amount of impatience in South Africa over the continuous shelving of the question. As *The Times* has wisely remarked, since the transfer of these Protectorates is inevitable, the sooner it is effected, the better for everyone concerned.

IN THE FAR EAST a storm has suddenly burst, which we can only hope will prove to be, in a notable phrase in a *Times* leader, "a portentous shindy." So far it is only a shindy, but how far is it a portent of troubles to come? Does Japan wish to bring things to a head, and is she in a position to do so? At the suggestion of an outbreak of war between China and Japan, there was a drastic fall in Japanese stocks, and certainly her finances are in no position to stand a long strain. The Manchukuo adventure has not been so successful as Japan hoped it might be, and it would seem to be her best policy to consolidate her gains there rather than to embark on further adventures. At the moment of writing it seems likely that at least a temporary settlement will be reached.

NOW THAT THE RUSSIANS have converted the North Pole into a more or less comfortable health resort and Soviet airmen have treated it offhandedly as merely a stage in a truly colossal long distance flight from Moscow to California, the Arctic would seem to have lost not only much of its old terrors, but also the greater part of its romantic and mysterious appeal to the adventurous spirit of man. In saying this we have no wish to decry Russia's fine record of enterprise and achievement at and over the very top of the world. Whatever one may think of political ideals and the propagandising activities of Soviet Russia, in this one direction at least the record it has set up of successful accomplishment of an ambitious programme of "exploitation" must command universal respect and admiration.

IMPERIAL AIRWAYS have hit upon an excellent idea for promoting "air-mindedness" in the British public. This is the despatch this week on a five months' tour through the country of two railway carriages, equipped as travelling exhibitions. The carriages are attractively painted

a sea-blue colour and they contain models of the oldest as well as the latest Imperial Airways' planes. The object is to interest the public in the great progress that has been made in civil aviation since Imperial Airways first started on the business of commercial flying in 1924. Some forty English towns are to be visited during the next five months and there is little doubt that this admirably conceived publicity stunt will prove very popular.

THE RUN OF *The Lost Horizon* at the Tivoli has at last come to an end, and that picture is succeeded by the screen version of Miss Dodie Smith's successful play, *Call It A Day*. It is easily apparent from the film just how amusing the play was, for there are many good lines and several excellent situations in this comedy of a day in the life of an ordinary middle-class family. From the point of view of the cinema, however, this production is unsatisfactory, being very little more than a photograph of the piece. Ian Hunter and Frieda Inescort are quite satisfactory in the rôles originally played by Owen Nares and Gladys Cooper; Roland Young has the all too short part for him of the rubber planter back from the East, who mistakes Frieda Inescort for the woman whom his sister has picked out as a suitable wife for him. Of the rest Olivia de Havilland does well with the difficult, and unattractive part, of the love sick maiden.

"**M**UDIES" is no more, and with its death one more Victorian institution has disappeared. For nearly a hundred years Mr. Mudie supplied books to those of his and his descendants' generation, and there must be many among our older readers to whom the name was literally a household word. "Don't forget to change the books at Mudies," was the parting word to many a paterfamilias in the old days. The establishment in Oxford street was as much a book-selling business as a censor of books: Mr. Mudie sold nothing which he did not consider suitable reading for the wives and daughters of his customers. He was the mainstay of that strange institution, the three-volume novel published at the incredible price of a guinea-and-a-half. Mr. Mudie bought perhaps half or more of a first edition; if so, the novel was made. If not, it was still-born. He was in fact the forerunner of the modern book-club or book-society's recommendation. As times moved, however, Mudies did not move with the times.

SEVERAL NEW PLAYS made their appearance last week; of these *A Spot of Bother*, by Vernon Sylvaine, at The Strand Theatre keeps the audience in fits of laughter throughout three uproarious acts. The play is rollicking nonsense with Robertson Hare as a gay spark and Alfred Drayton in the rôle of a down-trodden husband. These two go through various absurd adventures and end by being blown up in a secret passage and emerge on the stage in tatters. The rest of the cast have little to do, but they make a good background to the wildness of the two inconsequential friends.

Another amusing play, *Up the Garden Path*, by Ireland Wood, was put on at The Embassy. The

doings of the Deveral family present a good evening's entertainment for those who like amusement without mental strain. Miss Muriel Aked is delightful as the energetic organiser without whom no Woman's Institute is complete and Miss Margaret Rutherford sustains an excellent performance as a muddle-headed middle-aged spinster. The plot, however, is weak and the characters overdrawn; moreover, it is a restless play with far too many exits and entrances. Nevertheless it was well received.

WOMEN OF PROPERTY, a play by Hella Wuolijoki, adapted from the Finnish by Frank Davison, is in a very different vein. It is a serious work and deals with the strife of three women, a mother, a wife and a mistress over one man. Security of tenure is retained by the Matriarch in spite of the modern-minded schoolmistress who claims the heart of the young master from his nagging wife. The local colour is charming and in all ways correct. Miss Mary Morris brings dignity to the scene and some excellent emotional acting by Miss Dorice Fordred keeps up the interest throughout.

In *They Came by Night*, by Barre Lyndon, at the Globe Theatre, Owen Nares ambles happily along in the part of a would-be honest jeweller who gets mixed up with crooks. None of it is at all necessary, but that doesn't matter much as, of course, being the hero he can't be allowed to get into any real trouble. It is David Burns' play, however, as Bugsie. He is the star turn of the evening and livens things up whenever he appears. The play is running to packed houses and should continue to draw a large audience.

MURRAY'S "Quarterly Review" for July, which fully maintains its reputation, includes two articles which should not be overlooked by students of contemporary history. We refer to Mr. Algernon Cecil's account of Lord Baldwin's career and to Mr. A. L. Kennedy's tribute to Sir Austen Chamberlain. Both are in the grand manner. Lord Baldwin was, in Mr. Cecil's phrase, "the representative Englishman of his time," and there can be no greater epitaph for any of us. "Epitaph" is only an anticipatory word, for we may hope that Lord Baldwin's example and counsel will for long be at the disposal of his country.

In the same issue Mr. Leo Kennedy's tribute to Sir Austen Chamberlain's life and work is based on the phrase—*Il a bien mérité de la patrie*.

IN THE CITY the revival of steadiness recorded last week has been maintained, though nothing approaching signs of real prosperity can be noted. In Europe the situation is more satisfactory though still uncertain, and figures have remained stationary. In the Far East there is much anxiety, and Japanese bonds have fallen substantially. English Home Railways remain steady with an upward tendency, in view of better returns and the hope of increased dividends on the prior stocks to be declared shortly. Great Western Ordinary continue to rise, and at their present price are still a sound five per cent. investment.

Leading Articles

INTERNATIONAL CLOUDS

AS we go to press, the British proposals for restoring non-intervention control over Spain have not been made public, and we can only hope that they may serve their purpose. If Europe is not to drift into chaos, an agreed system of some kind is necessary. A Peninsular War in which Germany and Italy, France and Russia, were openly engaged could scarcely fail to set the whole of Europe alight, and unhappy Spain would not be a halfpenny the better for it. The struggle between Nationalists and Reds shows no sign of coming to an end, and it is very doubtful whether the withdrawal of foreign volunteers would materially shorten the Civil War. It is inconceivable that the so-called Republican forces can ever overrun the territory now held by General Franco. Impartial observers returning from Nationalist Spain and Morocco are unanimous in describing the country as well administered and peaceful, and the population as contented. If the advantage of the Spanish people is considered, no one could desire the victory of the heterogeneous elements that form the governments of Valencia and Barcelona. In the interest of the Empire, it is well that General Franco should know that a great part of the population of these islands sympathises with his efforts and that our insistence on non-intervention is dictated by our desire and determination to save Europe from another great war.

In the Near East tension has decreased to some extent. It is all to the good that Stalin should spend his time in lopping off the heads of the tallest poppies in his garden. The dreams of world revolution that inspired his predecessors have departed to the limbo of things forgotten, and the friends of Bolshevism are hard put to it to distinguish between the Russian tyrant and our Western despots. The Russian bogey is laid for the moment. In truth, no one has really regarded the Red Army as a menace outside its own borders. The danger of Bolshevism lay in secret propaganda, and Stalin is rapidly making that as ineffective as Fascist or Nazi propaganda beyond the limits of the States that gave birth to them. There is a possibility that war-torn Spain may remain as the supreme and final example of the destruction wrought in the world by Red intrigue and the false philosophy of Bolshevism. If Germany has nothing to fear from Russia, Russia has nothing to fear from Germany. Herr Hitler may cast his eyes towards the Ukraine. His policy of the Drang nach Osten was useful camouflage to persuade this country that the re-armament of Germany would bring peace in the West, but he can never have hoped that the Army would ever be persuaded to risk an invasion of Russia. As Spain shows to-day, Germany's eyes are always turned westward where the richest booty lies.

Meantime, in the Far East, warfare is blazing up round the gates of Peking. A casual accident

set fire to the gunpowder, and no one can say how far the explosion will spread. It seems, however, hardly probable that Japan has any real desire for serious warfare. She has her hands full in Manchuria, her coffers are empty, and there is a limit to the sacrifice which she can demand from her patriotic people. In the 17th century the Manchus established their supremacy in China and founded the Dynasty that reigned till 1911. They imposed on the conquered the ignominy of the pigtail and were sovereign lords of China for a period which we modern Westerns would consider long, say, 250 years. Materially the Manchus were tyrants in the sense of Hitler and Mussolini, but quietly their barbarous notions of force and violence were absorbed by the ancient civilisation of China and that profound understanding of human nature from which neither savage nor modern can escape ate away their crude ideals of earthly conquest. Lao-tsze, if he be accepted as the founder of Taoism, and Confucius, the lord of common-sense, brought back even the conquerors to reality and to those laws of life that no living being can ignore.

There is little doubt that history would repeat itself, if Japan mastered China. The Japanese owe everything that is good in their civilisation to China and have learnt from Western Europe nothing but the damnation of efficiency. What they have borrowed from us may make them victors, but in this part of the world where faith has become a broken reed and understanding is darkened there is no charm to defend them against the all-absorbing power of Chinese wisdom. A Chinese smiled gently when a Western pacifist expressed his horror of the wars and tumults that seem to devastate the Celestial Empire. Every year he said three million people must perish by famine, flood, pestilence or war, if there is to be nourishment for the rest. Does it matter much which of these four exact the toll? As long as China is true to herself, she will absorb her conquerors. Individual life counts nothing, but the vast comprehension of the unseen which defends her against all assailants shows no signs of breaking down. The day may come when she will bring Japan into her orbit and through Japanese mediation impress on our Western world the principles of happiness.

There is no health in riches and no salvation in power. A friendly German said to an Englishman, " You are a fine people, but you are too fond of money." The answer was obvious. " You are a fine people, but you are too fond of power." Money and power are symbols of an ideal. Wealth has no meaning unless something is bought with it, except for those half-wits who are millionaires in our time. To a detached observer from another planet, the Athenian crown of laurel would be a far more reasonable reward for virtue than an entry in various ledgers, implying that so and so is the possessor of many millions. Power by itself is a curse, for no man can be happy if he is responsible for the happiness of more people than he knows, and great should be the earthly rewards of the dictators who nowadays, poor creatures, pretend that they ask for nothing but the gratitude of those they rule.

A new philosophy of life is a necessity admitted by every individual. If anyone could state that philosophy, the problem would be solved. The real difficulty is that there can be nothing new or startling in this solution. Somehow or other it has to go back to the old fundamental truths which form the basis of every religion. In the early days of Christianity no one regarded its message as a fresh discovery. Its novelty lay in its appeal not to a class, but to every living being. The maxim of "Love thy enemies" was laid down by Plato long after it had been expressed by the philosophers of the East, but the new faith called for its acceptance not only by the wise, but even by the slave for whom even Socrates had little sympathy. As time goes on, old things must be expressed in a new way. G. K. Chesterton used to say that the face of the earth might be changed, if the United States discovered the meaning of religion. It is conceivable that the answer to the question which everyone is asking may come from the other side of the Atlantic, but if history is any guide, the star of salvation is more likely to rise in the East.

THE PALESTINE REPORT

THE Report of the Royal Commission has been universally acclaimed. Everyone interested in the subject, whether Jew, Arab, pro-Jew, pro-Arab or unprejudiced student of affairs, recognises that it is a remarkable document, at once profound, lucid and, in intention, impartial.

To say that is not to imply that its proposals meet with universal acceptance. My own belief is, however, that in suggesting Partition, it has offered the best, though by no means an ideal solution of a problem for whose complexity the British people are responsible.

Where I would join issue with the Commission is over the boundary, which appears to be drawn to favour the Jew at the expense of the Arab. If the maps attached to the Report be examined, it will be seen that the greater and richer part of cultivated and cultivable land has been assigned to Jewry.

One result of this maladjustment will be that the Arab will always, whatever financial compensation he may be awarded, consider that the Jew has robbed him of the most precious part of his inheritance, and the political agitator will be given the best of slogans with which to stir up or renew enmity, to the detriment of the prospects of peace.

Another result is that no less than 225,000 Arabs, at present domiciled in the area assigned to the Jews will have to be removed to other parts of Palestine. For this, says the Report, "An instructive precedent is afforded as it happens, by the exchange effected between the Greek and Turkish populations on the morrow of the Greco-Turkish war of 1922," when 1,300,000 Greeks and 400,000 Turks were transferred from the lands of their former enemies to their respective countries.

"Unfortunately," continues the Report, "for our purposes the analogy breaks down at one essential point. In Northern Greece a surplus of

cultivable land was available or could rapidly be made available for the settlement of the Greeks evacuated from Turkey. In Palestine there is at present no such surplus."

But the analogy breaks down also on other essential points. In the first place, there is no exchange in question, for the Arabs to be displaced amount to a quarter of the Arab population of Palestine, whereas the Jews in a similar predicament number only 1,250 persons. Again, whereas the Greeks and the Turks were transferred from alien lands to their own countries, the Arab is to be ejected from the home he has made in his native land. The remedy for this evil is clearly to assign more cultivable land to the Arabs.

There are two directions in which it would seem desirable to carry out this proposal. In the history of undeveloped countries, the hungry hillman has always found sustenance by raiding into the plains. The coastal plain north of Jaffa is rich, the hills lie close at hand. A strip of rich land allotted to the Arabs between the Jewish plain and the Arab foothills might obviate this danger.

So much for the first suggestion. The second concerns Jaffa. Danzig has long been one of the worst danger-spots in Europe. We seem to be about to repeat the error of Versailles; for Jaffa, in the scheme suggested in the Report, is to be even more perilously situated than the old Hanseatic town. It is to be the only Arab port worthy of the name; yet the Arabs must reach it either through the corridor or through Jewish territory or through both. To the north lies Tel Aviv (Jewish), then come the corridor (mandatory), Jaffa (Arab), again the corridor, Jewish land and finally Arab land. Such an arrangement just asks for trouble; and, on the analogy of Danzig, will certainly get it. Simplicity is essential to boundary-treaties if they are to be successful. Except in regard to Jaffa, the proposals in the Report are both bold and simple. A clean cut south of Jaffa, even at some sacrifice of particular rights, would remove a complication certain to lead to friction if not to war. The revised plan should, as suggested in the Report, give a joint harbour to Tel Aviv and Jaffa. South of Jaffa and south of the corridor, the land at present assigned to the Jews by the Commissioners should be allotted to the Arabs.

This proposal, and the preceding one suggesting the assignment to the Arabs of a strip of land along the coastal plain, would obviate conditions detrimental to hopes of peace, would reduce the heavy disproportion between the populations to be transferred and would help to solve the problem of the settlement of the vast number of displaced Arabs.

It may be said that the Jew has earned favourable treatment on account of the skill, the energy and the money he has devoted to the country. He has certainly won our admiration in these respects. On the other hand, in this grave matter, the Arab is the first charge upon our conscience. To anyone who has seriously studied the evidence, it is clear (and it is made particularly plain in the Report) that we definitely promised him independence in Palestine. Having done so, we had no right to offer the Jews a National Home there. As

however, we drew benefit from our promise to the Jews and, by reason of it attracted 300,000 of them to the country, we must give due consideration to their claims. But we must remember always that we are doing so in a country promised to the Arabs; and, where any doubt arises, it should be resolved in favour of the latter.

H.R.R.

THE FRENCH SCOTLAND YARD

THE best known of all proverbs in France is *Cherchez la femme*. There is an exaggerated cynicism about it, but it is nevertheless a maxim which the French detective has found very useful as a matter of experience. There is a woman at the bottom of a very large number of crimes. If she can be found and induced to speak the problem is often quickly cleared up.

The French are an extremely systematic people and this characteristic is reflected in their detective methods. The Sûreté would agree entirely with Scotland Yard that on a last analysis the interrogation of witnesses, criminals and their accomplices furnish the vital core of any investigation. The French have accordingly carried the technique of interrogation to a very high point of perfection. Their examining magistrates who are highly trained in law are specially instructed in the science and art of interrogating witnesses.

Anyone who has seen an examining magistrate at work in police headquarters realises at once the extraordinary efficiency of his methods. If the witness has something to conceal it often becomes a battle of wits. But the man trained in dialectics with long experience of interrogation and of human nature as it is generally prevails in the end. The innocent and sincere witness has nothing to fear. If he wants to tell the truth, the skilled interrogation by a man trained in the science of evidence often helps him to recall and arrange material items of his testimony. The notion that a man is regarded as guilty in France until the contrary is shown is illusory.

The Sûreté does not neglect scientific evidence. Attached to every police headquarters in the larger towns is a laboratory of technical police. Not only are routine interrogations carried out there, but research in criminological problems. As example, one of our colleagues at Lyon made some years ago an elaborate investigation of the fingerprints of monkeys. He made the surprising discovery that the larger apes often have fingerprints of the same type as those of human beings. There are research workers who investigate new methods for the identification of blood and sperm, who examine dust by the refined methods of modern science, and carry out elaborate researches into the identification of handwriting.

Collaboration between the scientific man and the detective is closer in France than in England because both work within the police organisation. It has its disadvantages but it makes for efficiency. Here is an example of French methods in a case which strikingly resembles the murder of Vera Page.

In the summer of 1925 a large packet was found in the Bois de Boulogne. Opened it was found to contain the body of a man greatly decomposed. The body and the clothing were examined by experts at the Medico-Legal Institute of the Sorbonne. The man could not be directly identified.

The hair was examined microscopically. It was greyish but showed traces of a chestnut dye. The dust and stains on the shirt were examined. They consisted of coal and sawdust. A minute examination of the latter proved that it was a mixture of pine wood and oak. A still more searching examination of the dust in the clothes revealed the presence of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*—beer yeast. The investigators also found a red dust which turned out to be varnish coloured with rhodamine, a dye. From the facts the scientific police deduced that the man had been murdered or his body concealed for a time in a cellar containing coal, sawdust, and beer casks.

The murdered man was soon identified as a clerk who had been missing for a week. Suspicion fell upon two men known to him in life. The police became very interested in the cellars beneath the house belonging to one of them. They inspected it in the presence of the suspected man.

They found a large bloodstain which proved to be one of human blood, which the suspect explained by saying that the cat had had kittens in the cellar. They found coal dust; they found sawdust which was a mixture of pine and oak; they found beer yeast; they found hairs which were mainly grey but showing traces of chestnut colour; they found a piece of red varnished wood and powdered fragments of the varnish which had split off from it. By purely circumstantial evidence, scientifically interpreted, it was proved beyond all doubt that that cellar was the scene of the crime.

The police, supplementing the evidence with their technique of interrogation, did something additionally which Scotland Yard is not allowed to do. They questioned the suspect on the scene of the crime and confronted him with the evidence of the traces and stains they had found there. He did not confess but was convicted at the trial on evidence as complete as anyone could wish.

The late Edmond Boyle, once eminent chief of the Judicial Police of Paris, commenting on this case made it an object lesson of what science could and could not do for the detective. The physical sciences, he declared, can often establish such facts as the locus of the crime, the presence of the victim at that place, can show the method of attack, identify the weapon with which that attack was made. It can interpret, in short, the physical evidence. But other kinds of inquiry are necessary to determine whether the crime was premeditated or impulsive, the state of the assailant's mind, the real nature and quality of the act. These things can only be decided by oral evidence of some kind.

That is why some people imagine that French police headquarters are full of inquisitors. In a sense this is quite true. But the French think that an innocent person is not injured by answering questions, and that in a last resort it is the witness alone who can tell the truth and the whole truth.

Books of The Day

DEFOE THE ADVENTUROUS

THERE can have been few more prolific writers than Daniel Defoe, and that despite the fact that he did not launch into his literary and polemical career till he was nearly forty. Yet, as Professor James Sutherland justly observes ("Defoe," with 8 collotype plates and two text illustrations, Methuen, 12s. 6d.), of the three hundred and fifty publications attributed to Defoe's pen, probably only one is by the majority of Englishmen to-day associated with his name—"The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe, of York, Mariner," a book written when he was fifty-nine. The explanation, of course, is that the greater part of Defoe's literary activities were devoted to the political and religious controversies of his own day and, however much attention these may deserve from the historian, they are of little interest, after the passage of two centuries, to the generality of mankind. At the same time Defoe was a man of a very lively if practical imagination, and in some of the ideas he threw off in his "Essay Upon Projects" and elsewhere in his numerous articles, pamphlets and books—for example, a special road fund for constructing roads forty to thirty feet wide, reform of the banking system and the bankruptcy law, academies for the education of women "with souls capable of the same accomplishments with men," and even the need for a truly National Government—he was centuries in advance of his own age. And with his easy, conversational style and good-humoured, well-reasoned argument he is always eminently readable; a controversialist who is too much a realist to rely on vague generalisations, too imaginative ever to be dull. Professor Sutherland is more concerned with Defoe's life than with his claims to literary fame. But his well-balanced biography does reveal not only considerable research into the dark corners of his hero's life but also a close study of and familiarity with Defoe's writings. Moreover, apt and frequent quotation from Defoe's works is skilfully utilised to illustrate his character and mentality and the vicissitudes of his rather amazing career.

For Defoe life must have been even more full of "strange surprising adventures" than it was for his Crusoe. As a young man he took an active part in the Monmouth Rebellion, but managed somehow to escape arrest. Then he settled down to business in the City and was well on the road to fortune when the outbreak of war with France caused him serious losses in trade. After he had failed as a merchant at the age of thirty-three he was never quite free from the excitement of dodging creditors, but this did not prevent him from engaging in a variety of occupations, which provided plenty of scope for his restless energies, earned him sometimes fame, sometimes notoriety and frequently involved him in trouble and no little danger to life and limb. Refusing to accept defeat, he retrieved his fortunes for a time by the manufacture of bricks and tiles, but this enterprise

was also ultimately to end in failure and to add to Defoe's financial difficulties. Meanwhile he had taken to politics and pamphleteering and had won the gratitude of King William by his earnest championship of that sovereign's war policy against France. Perhaps the boldest exploit of Defoe's life was his presentment to an ultra-Tory House of Commons of his famous "Legion's Memorial" pointing out to the members of that House that "you are not above the People's resentments." Later he was to suffer for this and a subsequent imprudence by being given a dose both of the pillory and imprisonment. But the former did not prove to be quite the terrible experience Defoe had anticipated. Instead of having his head bespattered with rotten eggs and stinking fish, he was treated as a martyr and had his pillory garlanded with flowers and his health drunk by friendly crowds. It was Harley who eventually and rather dilatorily secured Defoe's freedom from prison, and it was in Harley's service that Defoe started on his new rôles as journalist and political spy. He had certainly a hand in bringing about through his secret manoeuvres in Edinburgh the Union of England and Scotland, and his "History of the Union" contains, as Professor Sutherland says, valuable material for the historian for reconstructing the events of 1706-7. For nine years Defoe was to continue single-handed to produce three times a week every line in the *Review*, which he had founded in 1704, and all the time it was coming out he was also busy turning out satirical poems, pamphlets and even full-sized books.

As for his political convictions, he might truthfully claim that he was always, whether in the pay of Tory or Whig, an honest advocate of moderation. His enemies, of course, accused him of being "a mean mercenarie prostitute, a State mountebank, an hackney tool." But Professor Sutherland, while not wholly accepting Defoe's own account of his good faith, rightly insists on judging his actions in the light of contemporary circumstances. "I have," he says, "constantly reminded myself that for many years he was in the front line of political warfare, a man upon whom many conflicting motives played, and who was continually fighting himself no less than his opponents. His voyage through life was rough and stormy, and often his whole energy was concentrated upon keeping the boat afloat. Such considerations should be taken into account when one is inclined to talk too easily of principles and consistency."

PERDITA ROBINSON

In that large company of the Fair, but Frail which brightly trips across the pages of History, Mary Darby—the Perdita Robinson of Gainsborough's celebrated portrait—deserves from Posterity an interest not unmixed with compassion. She had charm as well as beauty and qualities of mind and heart that, in other circumstances, might have raised her beyond the reach of devastating scandal. If her morals were not above reproach, she was at least a kind and loving mother. And she had some excuse for her straying from the strict path of virtue. Fate had decreed that her father

should desert her mother and herself and change their condition from affluence to one of a hard struggle for existence. Then her marriage with Robinson turned out to be anything but a happy affair. He was a rogue and a spendthrift, and it was she who kept the home going by her success on the stage. Her first amatory adventures in the fashionable world were, there is little doubt, the result of her depraved husband's promptings. Report credited Sheridan as being among the first of her lovers, but this Perdita never admitted. For a year, however, she became the mistress of the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV). She might have retained his affections longer had she displayed more discretion. As it was she made herself a little too conspicuous for his taste.

Miss Marguerite Steen, who tells her story with piquancy and a discerning sympathy ("The Lost One: A Biography of Mary Perdita Robinson," Methuen, illustrated, 12s. 6d.), gives us an entertaining picture of her at this period. "In her flowery chariot with servants liveried in pale blue and silver . . . one day 'powdered, patched and painted to the utmost capacity of rouge and white lead' she posed in the height of the fashion as a St. James's Park belle; the next, *en amazone*, she riveted all eyes with a bold travesty of masculine costume. . . . Or she would 'go rustic' in simple muslin, with a straw hat tied to the back of her head." When the Prince abandoned her, she turned first to Charles James Fox and then to Colonel Tarleton, the gallant and ever faithful friend who would not desert her in the illness that was to send her prematurely to the grave. A minor poetess, she wrote the verses that adorn her tombstone in Old Windsor churchyard:—

"No wealth had she, no pow'r to sway;
Yet rich in worth and learning's store;
She wept her summer hours away,
She heard the wintry storm no more."

A PIONEERING EPIC

Nebraska, "the Tree-Planters' State" of the U.S.A., consists, the geography books tell us, mainly of prairie, sand-hills and fertile plains, and the chief occupation of its million and a half inhabitants is agriculture. Fifty years ago large portions of the State were still undeveloped; the haunt of wolves and coyotes and wandering Red Indian tribes. It was to this undeveloped country came an immigrant from Switzerland in the year 1884—a dapper medical student who in his new surroundings was speedily to become what our American cousins describe in their picturesque language as a "tough guy." Jules Ami Sandoz was his name, and the story of his struggles and achievements is set out in a remarkable book written by his daughter, Mari Sandoz ("Old Jules," illustrated, Chapman & Hall, 12s. 6d.).

This book is something more than a biography; it is a veritable epic of pioneering. And it partakes something of the quality of the people and the country it so vividly describes; there is a roughness and oddity about the style as well as a certain impressiveness which all seem strangely in keeping with the work and life of the pioneer. The book, too, in its curiously casual way reflects that attitude

of mind natural to first settlers in a country of taking things just as they come; in this record things happen, but whether they are cloudbursts, shootings, threats of murder, Red Indian scares, cattlemen's intrigues and manœuvres, law-suits or warfare over the fences, it is all one; the narrative inexorably eschews the "high spots."

"One can go into a wild country and make it tame," says one of the characters in the book, "but, like a coat and cap and mittens that he can never take off, he must always carry the look of the land as it was." Old Jules carried that look and so does his biography. His daughter's frankness makes him live for us again in his proper environment; there is no toning down of the faults of the father she does not profess to have loved; one can well understand that she and his other children had a wholesome fear of him and that one of his four wives should have gone mad and another should have eloped with an accordion player. Yet it is possible also to understand how this "locator, builder of communities, bringer of fruit to the Panhandle" evoked feelings of admiration even from those who had cause to fear him. He was hard to live with, but he had courage and great strength of purpose and by sheer force of character helped to realise the vision that filled his mind's eye when first he surveyed the silver ribbon of the Niobrara and the hard and flat land adjoining it and saw there "his home and around him a community of his countrymen and other home-seekers, refugees from oppression and poverty, intermingled in peace and contentment."

"I Wish . . ."



*"I wish I could go to the seaside.
I wish I could get out of these dirty
streets. I wish, for a little while,
that I had enough to eat, a nice bed
to sleep in, sands to play on, and
the sea to paddle in. I wish . . ."*

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CHURCH ARMY FRESH AIR HOMES

FROM CLOWN TO MILLIONAIRE

Barney Barnato was a great figure in the financial worlds of South Africa and London in the 'nineties, and in view of his extraordinarily romantic and picturesque career it is perhaps a little surprising that his life has not received more attention from the writers of biographies. Except for an appreciative memoir by Mr. Harry Raymond that appeared soon after Barney Barnato's sensational suicide at sea, there does not seem to have been any attempt at a biography till Mr. Richard Lewinsohn set out to repair the omission. His book, "Barney Barnato" (Routledge, illustrated, 10s. 6d.), bears the picturesque sub-title, "From Whitechapel Clown to Diamond King," and, while it does justice to Barney Barnato's more serious achievements and the many admirable traits in his character, it also stresses the theatrical element in his composition, the result of his early stage ambitions and of his youthful experiences as a performer in a Whitechapel music-hall.

Rhodes played on this weakness of Barney's when he was endeavouring to win him over to the amalgamation of the diamond companies, and Mr. Lewinsohn gives a most amusing account of Rhodes' tactics in this connection. On one occasion he says Rhodes told Barney that he always longed to see a bucket-full of diamonds. Could Barney produce one? "Barnato did not need to be asked twice. The very next day he appeared before Rhodes with a bucket filled to the brim with sparkling stones. The two men then carried the precious load between them through the streets, as though it had been some supernatural relic. Passers-by stopped to stare at the strange spectacle: the two great magnates of the diamond world walking almost hand-in-hand. Barnato's face glowed with pride and pleasure. Rhodes, too, seemed thoroughly to enjoy himself. He plunged his hand into the precious stones and let them run through his fingers.... It was a well-staged comedy, and Rhodes knew just what he was doing. All the same it meant something serious enough to him. For this little one-act play was called *The Conquest of Kimberley*. This bucket of stones symbolised his assumption of power."

Barnato's greatest public exploit was perhaps when, by a threat of selling all his properties in the Transvaal, he forced Paul Kruger to commute to fines the sentences of death and imprisonment passed on the members of the Johannesburg Reform Committee after the Jameson Raid. This exploit, as Mr. Lewinsohn says, raised Barnato to the position of popular hero in Johannesburg. But soon after that came the breakdown in health that was before long to be responsible for his throwing himself overboard at sea. While Mr. Lewinsohn does not profess to fill up all the gaps that are inevitable in accounts of a life such as that of Barney Barnato's, he yet succeeds in presenting us with a very clear portrait of the man and a lively chronicle of the main incidents of his career.

NEW NOVELS

John Drinkwater's posthumous book, "Robinson of England" (Methuen, 8s. 6d.), illustrated by

J. H. Dowd, is written in fictional form, and one is justified therefore in treating it as a novel even though it has no plot and it is obvious that the characters for the main part are merely there for the purpose of carrying on the discourse on the past and present of the England that Drinkwater, like the Uncle Robinson of his story, "was in love with." There is a half-hearted attempt to give an additional flavour of the novel to the book by reviving an old romance of this genial, lovable Uncle, in the very last chapter. But if as a novel the book has its weaknesses, there can be no denying the charm of the book and its delightful suggestiveness at various points of autobiography, pure and simple. Robinson got his name through his father having, just at the time of his birth, read Defoe's immortal work, and with such a name it was perhaps inevitable that he should go about discovering all there was to know about the little island in which he was born. And having made his discoveries one may rejoice that he was endowed by his author with a nephew and nieces to whom he could impart all his rich store of knowledge of English history, poetry, arts and crafts, manor-house and cottage, villages and countryside, and indeed everything that has contributed to England's greatness and genius. The Crusoe speaking may be only John Drinkwater rather thinly disguised, but that merely serves to enhance the interest of these "conversation pieces," so deliciously and appropriately illustrated by Mr. Dowd.

"Anna," by Boris Zaitsev (translated by Natalie Duddington, Allen and Unwin, 5s.), is a Russian love story which makes up for its extreme brevity by the exquisite artistry of its telling. With a few light touches all the characters in the tale are portrayed to us and we are also given a very clear picture of the coming of the Soviet régime into the heart of the country. Perhaps the most astonishing feature of the story is the impartiality with which the author reveals the harshness of the Soviet confiscations and the brutality of some of the Soviet's agents.

To those who like Wild West tales "The Man From Nowhere," by Stuart Hardy (Bodley Head, 3s. 6d.), may be strongly recommended. The author does not make any outrageous demands on his readers' credulity, while he provides them with plenty of the kind of excitement traditionally associated with life in the Wild West.

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

At the end of August there will be coming from Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton a translation of M. Paul Morand's latest travel book "The Road To India."

Messrs. Nelson announce for September a new translation of the *Odyssey*, by Dr. W. H. D. Rouse.

Sometime in the early autumn Messrs Longmans will be bringing out Mr. J. B. Morton's latest book on the French Revolutionary period to which he has devoted considerable study. This will be entitled "The Dauphin" and will deal with the mystery surrounding the fate of Louis XVI's son.

Round the Empire

NORTH AUSTRALIAN PATROL

THE Commonwealth has a very long northern coastline to guard, both against possible invasion by an enemy and against its use by poachers in Australian pearl fisheries and by those carrying on trade in aboriginal women and the importation of opium and other deleterious drugs. The recently amended Aboriginal Ordinance provides for the confiscation of any foreign vessel found without lawful excuse in Australian territorial waters adjoining an aboriginal reserve, while the discovery of a tin which contained opium in a monoplane which crashed earlier in the year in Queensland served to confirm suspicions that aircraft was being used in the distribution of drugs. There seems little doubt that there is a considerable traffic in drugs entering Australia from the North, and this has naturally caused anxiety both to the State and Federal authorities. Meanwhile the depredations of Japanese poachers on the shell beds in the north have been steadily increasing of late years, and there is every reason to believe that these poachers have been making use of bases on the Australian coast. Finally there is the all-important question of defence. It does not require much imagination to realise the risk of having a long coastline insufficiently guarded and patrolled. In the event of war, an army might land on the coast at any one of a dozen points in the absence of an efficient patrol, and its presence be unsuspected for days. Nor would it be difficult for a foe, once established on Australian soil, no matter how remote the point might be from any big city, to strike from the sky.

All these considerations have induced the Federal authorities seriously to tackle the problem, and from reports appearing in the Australian papers it seems that an effective patrolling system is to be instituted in the near future. This is to take the form of armed launches, based on a mother patrol ship and ranging east and west along the northern coast, and a number of high-speed reconnaissance aeroplanes operating from aircraft bases at Port Darwin and Brisbane.

AUSTRALIAN SOIL EROSION

The Acting Premier of Victoria (Mr. Old) recently announced that the Ministry had decided to form a State erosion committee. The committee is to comprise senior officers of the departments concerned, said Mr. Old, and, in addition to investigating erosion problems, the committee would co-operate with the Federal authorities in a national endeavour to deal effectually with the menace. The gravity of the position in regard to soil erosion is, says the *Australasian*, not generally realised and is annually becoming more serious. It is worst in the hill country, in districts of heavy rainfall, that has been denuded of timber. Before timber-getters and settlers entered these areas the dense forest acted as a protection to the soil, but with its removal millions of tons of finest soil

particles and organic matter are carried annually to the ocean by the rivers of Australia, and are a monument to careless soil management. This waste may be witnessed in many localities. The great problem, the paper points out, "is the control of the rain that falls upon the land. The presence of growing plants retards the movement of surface water and holds back the soil particles. An abundance of roots in the soil helps to hold it together and prevent erosion. It is therefore essential that land subject to erosion should be kept covered with vegetation as much as possible. Nothing can compare with timber to check erosion; it is nature's safeguard. Any campaign to deal with the problem will have to provide for the planting of trees in places where erosion takes place or may be expected. This appears to be the best, and in some instances the only method of minimising the loss of soil that is becoming more devastating each succeeding year."

YOUTH AND NEW ZEALAND

A writer in the *Wellington Evening Post* (New Zealand) quotes figures from a series of census reports to prove that the average age of the population of the Dominion has been steadily rising since 1896, that such increases as have occurred in the total population have been most marked in the age categories from 40 to 59 and that the number of women beyond the reproductive age has been continuously increasing. He then analyses the figures of permanent departures from New Zealand for the past year to show that "youth is not staying

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in this country. . . . It sees no attraction in becoming an industrial nursemaid or almhouse keeper. . . . The gradual ageing of the population, the advancing of the average age of marriage, together with the consequent restriction of the reproductive period, and the general tendency to family limitation constitute movements of population that are having a profound psychological influence upon youth." The writer concludes by urging that the most careful and thorough inquiry must be made into the causes and effects of the present trends of population. Means will have to be found, he says, not only to stimulate marriage, but also to encourage child-birth. And since some time will have to elapse before it can be hoped that any effective results will be achieved, some form of planned migration will be necessary to cover the period of re-education. "The alternative," he declares, "is appalling; a nation of old men, old women, and, what is more hideous, of old children. Youth can have a future if we have the will and the courage to lay its foundations. But the longer the delay the more difficult the task of reconstruction will become."

A VICTORIAN ANNIVERSARY

With Queen Victoria emerging at last upon the British stage and screen, the celebration of the 75th birthday of her namesake town in British Columbia is a happy coincidence. The event is to be celebrated on August 2nd, and the occasion will doubtless be taken by the inhabitants to remind themselves of what their city has achieved in what,

when all is said and done, is a very short span of years. Originally known as Fort Camosun, Victoria, the capital of British Columbia, was founded in 1849 by one of the Chief Factors, James Douglas, who was sent to the Pacific coast by the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company from Fort Vancouver. Ten years later, when Douglas became Governor of Vancouver Island, the Parliament Buildings were erected, although the town at that time had only 450 inhabitants. A few years afterwards it received its Charter of Incorporation. There was a gold rush to the Fraser River fields in 1858, and many of the prospectors passed through Victoria.

In 1866 it became the capital of the Province: twenty years later railways and docks were installed, while thirty-seven years ago the new Parliament Buildings were completed. Another landmark was in 1911, when the streets were paved and a census taken, revealing a population of 60,000. To-day it is ranked as one of the world's most beautiful cities, climatically akin to English cities under summer suns, and visited annually by some 300,000 people.

CANADA'S PROGRESS

An investigation carried out by the Royal Bank of Canada shows that throughout the Dominion business activity during the early months of this year has maintained a level well above the corresponding months of 1936. "In hard figures"—one quotes from the Bank's statement—"the index of the physical volume of business for the first four months of 1937 was 117.8 as compared with 106.5 in 1936, while the index of industrial production advanced from 107.8 to 120.9. This improvement has been general and there are but few branches of industry where the increase in operations has not reached substantial proportions. Wholesale prices have been rising, employment has increased, and merchants throughout the country report retail sales in greater volume than at any time since 1931."

Manufacturing operations have continued at a high level, particularly in the case of heavy industries. Iron, steel, motor-car, newsprint, flour and leather production have all shown substantial gains, while electric stations established a new record for the first four months of the year of 9,200,000,000 kilowatt hours. Still more impressive is the activity in the mining fields, while a good story is also to be told of the agricultural, fishing and lumbering industries. For the period under review the Dominion exports rose by 21 per cent. over the corresponding period for the previous year, and the imports by 29 per cent.

BUGS, BUT—VERY WELCOME

Among the welcome travellers from Canada to Europe these days are a number of stink bugs. First-class passengers could not be treated with more consideration. They are packed snugly in cigar boxes, are lavishly fed, and are taken to and from the luxurious ocean liners in fast trains and special packages. The reception accorded them is enthusiastic in the extreme, for more effectively

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than any other means they can wage war against the ravages of the potato beetle. Careful investigation by experts has revealed that the stink bug is the beetle's most powerful enemy, and a number of European Governments have placed substantial orders with Canadian "breeders." In return Canada is buying Hungarian parasites to attack the sawfly, which for years has been ravaging Canadian spruce resources.

UNION'S LONGEST ROPEWAY

The construction of the longest aerial ropeway in South Africa will soon be started in the Transvaal for the New Amianthus Mines, Ltd. Thirteen miles in length, this remarkable transportation system will run from Barberton across the Barberton mountain land to connect the Havelock Asbestos Mine in Swaziland with the Union Railways. The building of this ropeway is due to the enterprise of Mr. Roland Starkey, of Rhodesia, and Mr. T. Stromsoe, of Johannesburg, who planned and built the Table Mountain passenger cableway, is also connected with the undertaking. Based on the bi-cable system—one rope being stationary and the other for traction—the manufacture of the plant is already in hand overseas and next year will see it in full running order. Towers, many of which will be more than 100 feet in height, are being made in sections small enough to be carried through the bush by natives. From Barberton railway station the line will rise sharply to the top of Saddleback some 2,500 feet above the old mining town. It will run from this point nearly horizontally across "mountainland," crossing the valleys of the Groot and Klein Komati rivers between the Saddleback and Makoniwa ranges. Enormous spans more than a mile in length from top of range to top of range will pass near the old resthouse at "Heights," across the Valley of Jozefsdal, and the line will then rise to its highest elevation on the shoulder of Emlembi Mountain, the loftiest peak along the Swaziland border. The Transvaal-Swaziland border coincides with this point, and from here the ropeway will descend sharply to the Havelock mine, 2,000 feet below. To traverse the distance between Havelock Mine and Barberton, the time required will be only about two hours. Each car will carry a load of 300 lbs., and they will follow each other at short intervals, so that the total capacity of the line will amount to about 75 tons of asbestos for every 10-hour working day.

TRUNK HIGHWAY FOR AFRICA

An all-African trunk highway system to ease the inter-State communication and develop tourist traffic is to be the subject of two conferences to be held in Southern Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo respectively. The first will be held at Bulawayo on August 5 and 6 and it is understood that Mr. G. M. Huggins, Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, will preside over the opening day's session. The conference will be attended by delegates from the Belgian Congo, East Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Northern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa. The meetings are being held within the framework

of the International Touring Alliance, with the consent of the General Assembly of the Alliance, which consists of 103 Touring Clubs, Automobile Associations and similar institutions all over the world.

A greater number of visitors from Great Britain is expected in Southern Rhodesia this year. The completion of the Birchenough Bridge, built at a cost of £100,000, with British steel and by a British firm, is partly responsible for the increasing interest in the Colony. In the past almost the only Rhodesian beauty spots visited by tourists were the Victoria Falls, the mysterious ruins at Zimbabwe and Rhodes' Grave in the Matapos mountains, where the great Empire builder had his "View of the World." Thanks to the great new bridge the lovely eastern districts of the Colony, which have been said to possess the finest scenery in Africa, have now been discovered by tourists.

RHODESIA'S AIR FORCE

In three years' time Southern Rhodesia will have its own Air Force. Six military aeroplanes (Hawker-Hart) are now in Salisbury, the capital of the Colony, waiting for trained personnel from England to unpack them. Members of the Royal Air Force will shortly go to Rhodesia and will later be replaced by Overseas trained Rhodesian pilots. The Hon. R. C. Tredgold, K.C., Minister of Justice and Defence, speaking at a public meeting in Rhodesia recently, pointed out that the suggestion that an R.A.F. squadron should be stationed in the Colony was impracticable on the score of finance. The capital cost would be over £300,000 and the annual cost £100,000. Three years ago, however, Southern Rhodesia decided to make a direct contribution of £10,000 a year towards Imperial defence, and in the event of hostilities the chief contribution Rhodesia would make would be, as in the Great War, in the form of personnel. The Rhodesia Regiment would be more useful in such an emergency as a source of officers and N.C.O.'s than as a unit. Overseas there was a definite appreciation of Rhodesian material, which has been accentuated by the visit of the Coronation contingent.

NORTHERN RHODESIA INQUIRY

Sir Alan Pim, who recently conducted an inquiry into Kenya's finances and expenditure, is at present carrying on another investigation with Mr. S. Milligan, as agricultural adviser, and Mr. A. D. Cohen, of the Colonial Office, into the general financial position of Northern Rhodesia, with special reference to "the practicability of (a) reducing the cost of administration, whether directly or by reorganisation, and (b) of developing or supplementing the existing sources of revenue."

Commenting on this fact, a writer in *The African Observer* suggests that Sir Alan is more likely to recommend increased than decreased expenditure, since he will be driven to the conclusion that the country cannot do justice to itself unless money is spent upon it. A big Imperial loan is recommended, for the purpose of develop-

ing vital services and purchasing all mining and land rights. Attention is called to the excessive transfer of officials from place to place. "Why," asks the writer, "was this general post never necessary on anything like the same scale during the 25 years when the Chartered Company held sway?" The writer recalls the statements in the Legislative Council 18 months ago by Colonel Gore-Browne that in his part of the country there had been five Provincial Commissioners in two years, incessant changes in District Officers, and that there had been for years no District Commissioner in his area who could talk the local native language.

UGANDA'S ELEPHANTS

Uganda has, it would appear, far more elephants than it wants. But the difficulty is to keep down the numbers. As the Game Warden rather ruefully remarks in the annual report of the Protectorate's Game Department, no sooner is one elephant killed than "it almost seems as if two appear mysteriously to replace it." Hence, despite a considerable slaughter, "we are just holding our own and no more." The elephants during the year were reduced by some 2,300, or 300 more than in the previous year, yet the country in many parts still continued to be unduly "over-run" with elephants. A change in control methods was tried in Bunyoro, where for years the presence of hordes of elephants had been accepted as inevitable from June to November. After two years' observation, Captain Salmon, the Acting Game Warden, doubted whether the annual exodus from the reserve really need be tolerated, and organised control on the assumption that even if elephants had for generations gone in a certain direction at a certain time or season every year, the lifelong habit would be broken and abandoned if its continued repetition resulted in sufficient unpleasantness for them. More than ordinary precautions were taken against serious results following the interruptions to their usual wanderings, and the whole of the Bunyoro control staff was concentrated in a triangular area, certain points being occupied permanently by guards, and regular daily patrols were carried out between certain points. Every fresh elephant track had to be followed until contact was made or another patrol was known to be in front, unless the elephants re-entered the reserve. During the first month five serious attempts were made by herds to emerge, and each was sharply checked within 24 hours. The whole area was so quiet by the end of the month that the control staff was transferred to another area. The main operations were, however, continued in July, August and the early part of September, by which time the crops were harvested and no great damage would be done if the herds broke through. Later attempts by elephants to break through became so half-hearted that the skeleton control staff had no difficulty in defeating them. Captain Salmon describes these methods as a "drastic experiment," and though a good many elephants were killed at each sortie, the herds suffered very little disturbance compared with past years, as they soon accepted the situation and showed very little determination to emerge.

Captain Salmon concludes: "The whole operation has been very interesting, and perhaps indicates the lines on which control in some other areas might be founded to the mutual advantage of elephants and people, but not probably of revenue resulting from 'control' ivory."

EMPIRE AIR DEVELOPMENTS

An air service reaching Southampton from Kisumu the other day brought the first load of mails to be flown from Africa to England under the new "all-mails-by-air" scheme. Reports now show that banks, business houses, and others are alive to the value of employing lightweight stationery in connection with the new scheme, thus obtaining full advantage of the 1½d. rate for half-ounce letters. The researches of paper-making firms have led to the production of special "air-mail" types of stationery which enable an envelope and as many as eight sheets of lightweight paper to be kept within a weight of half an ounce.

Air transport within the Empire is already being put to a variety of uses. For example there is its employment by big film companies. A party of producers and technicians arriving in England recently left Southampton in a big Imperial Airways flying-boat for Kisumu on the Africa route. On reaching Kisumu they left the flying-boat, and were flown on to Nairobi in an "Atlanta" monoplane. At Nairobi this film unit changed from air transport to surface transport, being taken on by motor car to various locations where they are obtaining special scenic material for a film which is to deal with the lives of the great African explorers, Livingstone and Stanley.

Another use of air transport is the carrying of livestock, such as dogs and poultry. Reports to hand show that valuable greyhounds, engaged in greyhound racing, now travel much more comfortably by air than by any other means. These highly-trained animals are sensitive, nervous creatures, and are apt to be adversely affected by the strain of long journeys by surface transport. But their trainers say that air travel appears to suit them admirably, and that they arrive at their journey's end, after an aerial voyage, without showing any signs of disordered nerves.

One of the recent features of air transport in Australia has been the growing volume of perishable goods carried by the flying routes, such as fresh fruit, vegetables, butter and other similar commodities. In the case of a good many localities, far removed from supply-centres, the only way in which they can obtain certain perishable articles is by air, the time taken by ground transport precluding the dispatch of such consignments by surface routes.

Finally there is the increasing employment of aircraft by surgeons, doctors and patients whose condition renders it doubtful whether they can stand the fatigue of a long journey by surface transport. The other day reference was made to a patient who flew 8,000 miles from South Africa to England in order to undergo an urgent operation and this is not the only case of the kind. Other recent reports as to this aspect of modern air transport draw attention to the wonderful life-saving work which

is being accomplished by commercial aircraft in territories such as Australia and Canada, where the immense distances which have to be traversed, and the undeveloped nature of much of the surface transport, often render it a difficult problem to bring patients in for hospital treatment from remote out-stations. In Australia more and more out-stations are being provided with a simple form of wireless transmitting apparatus which enables any unskilled person to send out an S.O.S. for medical aid to the nearest hospital centre which may be hundreds of miles distant. On the receipt of this message a doctor in a fast aeroplane flies immediately to the point indicated. Large aircraft equipped as ambulances are also employed to bring patients in for hospital treatment. The latest forms of equipment include big aircraft fitted up inside as operating theatres. In Canada, too, the aeroplane is being largely utilised for medical transport purposes in the far northern zones, sick and injured trappers and Red Indians being conveyed by this means for urgently needed treatment at the nearest hospitals.

IPI FAKIR'S LAIR

The "Official Eyewitness" attached to the force operating in Waziristan, in one of his recent messages published in the Indian papers, gives an interesting account of the Fakir of Ipi's lair at Arsal Kot and of its destruction by the Sappers and Miners. Arsal Kot, he says, "is but a hamlet consisting of from eight to ten houses and one Wazir tower. It stands above the Shaktu Algap on the top of a 40-foot cliff and has been uninhabited for some time. The Fakir of Ipi and his immediate followers have lived in three large caves cut out of the cliff side and capable of holding a considerable number of tribesmen. That which appears to have belonged to the Fakir, and which showed signs of very recent habitation, consisted of two large rooms each capable of accommodating 20 or 30 men and a small alcove probably used by the Fakir himself. On either side were two large caves each of which would accommodate at least 50 men. The principal cave was comparatively clean, but anyone entering either of the other two was at once attacked by a swarm of fleas. I saw a man coming out of one of them with his putties literally black with these insects, and I believe he has not yet got rid of all his unwelcome visitors. During the day the Sappers and Miners got to work on these caves and by evening, so thoroughly had they done their job, that no signs were left of them, nor will it be possible to re-excavate on the original sites."

QUETTA ARMY LINES

The construction of military buildings in Quetta is now expected to take three years more to complete than was originally anticipated, and according to present calculations the work may not be finished before 1945 or 1946. It is explained that the reason for this is that the annual allotments for the work are not being made on as large a scale as necessary. Approximately Rs. 40 lakhs (£280,000) were spent last year, while this year an

expenditure of Rs. 95 lakhs is anticipated. If, however, the time schedule originally proposed was adhered to, the expenditure each year would be at least Rs. one crore. The original estimate for the reconstruction work is Rs. 7 crores spread over the years from 1936 to 1943. The work at present in hand is concerned with the British and Indian military hospitals, lines for one British battalion, lines for two Gurkha and one Indian battalion, two groups of bungalows and messes, post and telegraph buildings and barracks at Shelabagh. It is stated that of the firms to which contracts have been given, only one is purely British and the rest are either entirely or predominantly Indian.

CEYLON EXPORTS RISE

Ceylon is increasing her export trade. The value of the Island's produce exported during the first five months of this year exceeded the exports of the corresponding period of 1936 by more than £1,850,000. Empire trade rose to over £6,500,000 in the period, an increase of £458,000, and foreign trade to over £3,000,000, an increase of £1,390,000.

A COPPER SHORTAGE

Thrift and charity is causing a serious shortage of coins in Ceylon. New supplies have been specially ordered by the Treasury, but they will not be ready for some weeks and the Ceylon banks are growing anxious. The Post Office Home Safe scheme is partly responsible for the shortage, since three million are in use in Ceylon, while the charity boxes of the Temples are also full of copper coins.

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MACMILLAN

Letters to the Editor

THE THREE-FOLD CORD

Sir,—In these troubled times, when many countries seem to be looking towards the English-speaking peoples for disinterested help and guidance, it is encouraging to note that English-speaking youth is preparing to offer a lead. In the movement known as the Three-Fold Cord, which seeks first to unite in close friendship the youth of Great Britain, the British Commonwealth, and the United States of America, we see an opportunity to build up a world unity of all nations respecting justice and loving freedom. Membership of the Three-Fold Cord should prove a real education to young people of all ages, and particularly to those who want guidance in establishing the new world on Christian principles. We recommend all parents and teachers, as well as all grown-up children, to write for particulars of membership. Donations, which are urgently required, should be sent to E. R. Appleton, Founder, Three-Fold Cord, The Guildhall, Barnstaple, Devon, England.

WILLIAM EBOR, MALCOLM CAMPBELL, L. W. GRENSTED, CYRIL NORWOOD, B. SEEBOHM ROWNTREE, E. S. WATERHOUSE.

LORD LINLITHGOW'S TRIUMPH

Sir,—You have rightly insisted in all your comments on the Indian political situation that there was only one course for the Viceroy and Whitehall

to pursue; refusal to accept any compromise on the subject of the Government of India Act's provisions. There can be no doubt at all that what Mr. Gandhi was aiming at with his formulas and astute suggestions was the picking of holes in that Act for the purpose of making it ultimately null and void. Both he and the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were quite open about their intentions to destroy this Act, and it is fortunate indeed that sentiment was not allowed to influence authority in making the kind of concessions that the cunning Mahatma had suggested.

Firmness allied to courtesy go a very long way in India and Lord Linlithgow has shown both in a marked degree. This has undoubtedly won over the majority of Congressmen who have long been anxious for their Party to assume office and abandon the passive resistance that was damaging Congress' prestige. But it would be foolish to anticipate that all the trouble is now over. The extremist Congresswallahs have had to give way to the demands of their Right wing, but they will certainly be looking out for opportunities of wrecking the constitution whenever and wherever they can find them. That is the danger ahead, and it can only be averted by Whitehall and Simla and the Governors watching their steps and displaying no readiness to compromise over essential provisions of the Act.

RETired I.C.S.

Kensington, S.W.5.

QUINCES

Sir,—I was glad to see your friendly reference to the quince in your review of a book on English fruit. Perhaps I write as an ignorant amateur, the unpopularity of the quince is due to its uncertainty. The produce of all fruit trees varies from year to year in our uncertain climate, but the quince is a law unto itself. It seems to be influenced neither by time or chance, but only by its own caprice. In my antique holding in Sussex, there is a pond, and by its side grows a quince tree, or rather, one ought to say a quince hedge, so far and wide has it spread round the pond. The year before last we found on it with some difficulty a single ripe quince in November. Last year it produced between 60 and 70. This year, so far as I can see, we shall be lucky if we find half-a-dozen. Close by we have four young quinces, between ten and twenty years old. Last year they produced between them several hundred fruit: this year so far as I could see yesterday there are none on their way. Why not? We have plenty of apples and plums, and there has been no exceptionally late frost.

This year I consulted our gardener, or rather the worthy country man who gives us what spare time he has from working on a neighbouring fruit farm. He knows all about it, "or thinks he knows." His answer was quite definite. "No, you can't do nothing with a quince. It's not like others—leave 'em alone and trust to luck."

If I may judge by results, this is rather a counsel of despair. My old quince, according to an official of the Board of Agriculture, who ought to know, is probably 150 years old—so we can't expect much. But I wonder whether any of your readers can suggest treatment for its four descendants, which ought to be producing "fruit in due season," but do so now most erratically.

ASHINGTON,

Your Investments

SENSITIVE STOCK MARKETS

THE last account was the smallest on the Stock Exchange for some years and it is surprising in view of the lack of business that prices did not fall even further than they did, for there is always a certain amount of realisation to effect on behalf of deceased accounts and other such necessitous sales. The steadier tone of the French franc and the lull in the tension of the international situation caused quite a sharp recovery though there was little buying to bring about any substantial rise in security prices. British Government stocks led the recovery which spread right through to Tin and Rubber shares and even to gold mines, though this week markets have again proved sensitive to international influences.

As the weeks go by, one cannot but feel increasingly convinced that failing any actual international strife, in which case the value of all securities would become as problematical as that of human life, the inflationary influences at work throughout the world are gradually gaining ground. Thus the Bank of England return last week disclosed a new record note circulation of £494,424,000, the expansion on the week being nearly £6,000,000. No doubt a certain proportion of this is due to Continental hoarding of Bank of England notes, but the continued rise in the note issue is not unconnected with the generally increased wages and spending power of the community and the higher prices of the goods which they purchase.

EFFECT ON SECURITIES

The effect on the security markets of this expansion of credit which is reflected also in the volume of cheques cleared and of bank advances, is certainly not to make gilt-edged and other fixed interest stocks appear more attractive for the *real* return on them, i.e., the volume of goods and services which their income will buy, is declining daily with the rise in prices and wages. It remains to note how far "equities," or ordinary stocks and shares, are benefiting from the present movement. Many argue that the rise in wages and raw material costs is eating up all the additional revenues secured by the manufacturing companies, but experience shows that the profit-margin is widened at a time of rising prices to cover the expected further rise during the period of sale, while the increased turnover which nearly all manufacturers are experiencing lends itself to a percentage reduction in production costs and thus assists in maintaining the profit-margin. In any event, though manufacturers are complaining already of the heavy increases in costs, reports now being

published of industrial companies suggest that the present is a period of considerable and growing prosperity. N.D.C. is also mentioned and many appear to think that 5 per cent. tax on profits is the same thing as 5 per cent. deducted from the balance available for dividend. But this is not so, for the dividend represents the usually very much larger sum of percentage on ordinary capital. The effects of N.D.C. are exaggerated though the tax is certainly a heavy imposition on industry.

IRONS AND STEELS

The heavy industrials, therefore, seem still to have bright prospects over the next year or two, at least, and at present prices there is scope for capital appreciation as well as for a reasonable income. The shortage of steel throughout the manufacturing countries of the world implies that the present activity in this industry is likely to continue for some time and the fall in the shares recently appears to have been overdone. To take a few examples: Colvilles £1 units, which earlier in the year touched 34s. 1½d. now stand at 26s. 9d., yielding over 5½ per cent. on last year's dividend. John Brown's at 35s. are some 9s. below their highest of the year and they return £4 7s. per cent. with every prospect of at least maintaining their dividend this year. Baldwin's 4s. stock units are only 9s. 6d., returning about £4 2s. 6d. per cent. on the 10 per cent. dividend basis. Earlier this year the price was up to 15s. 3d. and the low price of this security makes it attractive to the speculator, though the stock is one of the soundest in the market.

HOME RAILS

Home Railway stocks may be placed very much in the same category as Iron, Coal and Steel shares for their prosperity is very largely dependent upon that of the heavy industries though, of course, Southern Railway is more dependent than the other lines upon passenger traffic. For the first six months of the year the four Home Railways had an increase in gross traffics of 4½ per cent., G.W.R. and L.N.E.R. recording increases of over 5 per cent. In addition, there is the prospect of a 5 per cent. increase in freights and charges to be considered against all of which has to be set the admittedly heavier costs for wages, fuel, and renewals. In a full year the effects of the anticipated 5 per cent. increase in freights and fares should be such as to make possible a considerable increase in the dividend rates and even this year there is every prospect of an increase. This being so, G.W.R. at 65½ yielding nearly 4½ per cent. on last year's 3 per cent. dividend appear attractive, while L.M.S. at 35 are the best of the lower priced stocks. If 2 per cent. is paid this year, the yield would be £5 14s. per cent. at this price.

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